



Report: **Graph Distribution**

Course: **INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS (POLSW1201_001_2009_3)**
Evaluation: **Barnard Course Evaluation - Teaching Assistant**
Dates: **December 07, 2009 - December 16, 2009**
No. of Respondents: 83
No. of Students: 97

TEACHING ASSISTANT - David Joseph O'Connell

1: TA's ability to raise challenging questions

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	2% (1)
Excellent	93% (39)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

2: TA's ability to help clarify course material

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	2% (1)
Excellent	93% (39)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

3: TA's ability to encourage student participation effectively

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	2% (1)
Very Good	5% (2)
Excellent	88% (37)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

4: **TA's responsiveness to student questions, opinions and criticisms**

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	2% (1)
Excellent	████████████████████ 93% (39)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

5: **TA's feedback on assignments and examinations**

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	2% (1)
Very Good	0% (0)
Excellent	████████████████████ 93% (39)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

6: **TA's ability to communicate effectively with students**

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	0% (0)
Excellent	████████████████████ 95% (40)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

7: **Overall effectiveness of the teaching assistant**

n = 42

Poor	2%(1)
Fair	0%(0)
Good	0% (0)
Very Good	0% (0)
Excellent	████████████████████ 95% (40)
Not Applicable	2%(1)

Course: **INTRO TO AMERICAN POLITICS (POLSW1201_001_2009_3)**
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Percent Completed: **86%**

Comments on TA effectiveness - David Joseph O'Connell

easily the greatest TA I have had at columbia.

David is by far the best TA I have had. He always comes prepared to class with handouts, questions, his own notes. The only problem is that he talks really fast, and it would be a significant help if he could speak a lot slower. He is also willing to meet outside of class, even outside of his office hours. Also one more thing--in the beginning of the semester he said that he is very responsive to emails, that he's on his email 24/7, but there were times when my emails were either not answered or responded to quite late. Overall, David is an excellent TA who genuinely cares about his students. I had a great time.

David is great. Explains everything super clearly. His enthusiasm makes you interested in the subject material that would have been boring otherwise.

David was a really good TA, and he was always willing to meet outside of class or set up individual appointments to clarify issues or go over assignments.

O'Connell is a fantastic TA both in his dedication to the students and his ability to synthesize course material for easy comprehension. This was not a well organized course by the professor. David took meandering, occasionally nonsensical lectures and turned them into meaningful discussions on the nature of the American political system. I have become more knowledgeable on American theory by leaps and bounds. I only wish we had done extended papers just so I could benefit from his advice. Let me assure anyone reading, this is the first time I've ever asked for more work. The moment I hear David's signed up for a new course, I'm following.

Minor note: Please make your frustrations less visible in the classroom; I can understand your situation at times but we all have problems too.

helpful, devoted, very accessible, kind

David is great as a TA; he's always available to meet and discuss material and problems, and is always excited and interested in the subject material.

By far the most effective TA I have had at Columbia. David clearly cared about his students, and understood that Prof. Johnson's scattered style of teaching was not conducive to learning. David should have taught this class instead of Prof. Johnson. He knows an incredible amount about American politics and dedicates his time and effort toward ensuring that his students become equally as knowledgeable.

David was a highly organized TA who kept in constant contact with student and was always willing to help them out/engage them in any way possible. He is so

knowledgeable and presents material in an accessible but brilliant fashion--with humor added to the mix. He could make any material fun and interesting to learn. He made the class completely worthwhile.

Extremely interesting, made the class bearable, allowed us to express our opinions. Simply put, he is an amazing TA, and that I look forward to him becoming a professor because he will inspire anyone he teaches.

David is an exceptional TA. He is extremely helpful and is ALWAYS available to address student concerns.

In all my years here, I've never had such an amazing TA. He was extremely knowledgeable on the subject and was able to cover all topics effectively; he was always available to discuss questions or potential project topics; he was always upbeat, cheerful, and enthusiastic; and he made each 50-minute section a careful combination of review and group discussion. Excellent TA.

Great TA. He is extremely dedicated to his job.

G-d Bless David! He was AMAZING! He truly cares about his students and whether they pass or not. Honestly if it were not for him, I would probably be failing! Great at explaining the course material, especially when the prof. kind of went off on tangents or was not clear enough. Thanks a bunch!

David is definitely one of the best TAs that I have ever had. He is extremely intelligent, thoughtful, available. He is always willing to meet with his students and go over course material and/or discuss ways in which the student can do better in the class. Having David as my TA definitely helped to make my learning experience in the course much better.

David is arguably one of the best TAs I've ever had here at Columbia. He was ALWAYS available and he ALWAYS answered emails in a timely fashion. Furthermore, David always came to class on time, prepared, and excited. He seems to truly care about this course and his students. Even though I personally did not receive the best grades in this class, it was by no means David's fault. He goes over and beyond to help anyone who requests it. I must say that one day, if he chooses to do so, David will be an excellent professor.

Of all the teachers I had this semester I can honestly say that my TA David O'Connell was the best, and I really had some excellent teachers. I have never been lucky enough to be taught by someone who cared so much about his students and about the subject matter. The entire course he went above and beyond his job description by meeting with students on a moment's notice, responding to countless e-mails, and taking hours out of his Sunday to make sure I understood the material when I was unsure. As a freshman I was completely overwhelmed by the course, but Mr. O'Connell made sure I did well. I cannot sing his praises enough. Barnard College is lucky to have him.

David is awesome!

David was the best TA I've ever had. He was so helpful and always available. His sessions clarified the lectures and readings. He is also very funny and personable and manages to make the readings both relevant and interesting. It is clear that he puts a

lot of work into his job, he even handed back a full page of typed comments on every paper. I have absolutely no complaints.

He is the BEST TA I have ever had!!! He was so helpful and always available to meet. He is FANTASTIC!!!!

David O'Connell is probably the most available and engaging TA I have met. Not only is he helpful inside and outside of the classroom, he is genuinely a very nice and knowledgeable person. His discussion sections are very helpful and at the same time fun, which is exceptional. He always added some information from the news that he thought was relevant or interesting which made discussion sections much more engaging than they would have been otherwise. Overall, David O'Connell was the highlight of my Introduction to American Politics class.

On Alma Mater's honor, David was the best TA I have had @ Columbia in any course/discipline/department. He has personality which is *rare*; his personality is warm, inviting and creates the trust necessary to give your honest opinion, even if just to say "I didn't read that article yet" without embarrassment in section. Best of all, he is inspiring - he makes you want to learn the material and perform well - not for his approval, but because his energy and enthusiasm are infectious. Furthermore, his ability to focus discussion section on the topic of the week, or the key points in articles is almost eerie. The guy just knows how to boil down an immense amount of material into a 50 minute section while still conducting fun discussions. His paper and test comments are amazingly helpful because they are so thorough - I've never had a professor *or* TA dedicate as much time to my work as David. He makes himself so available and accessible at all times you almost feel guilty for not utilizing his office hours or email, but honestly as I said, he's so good in section you really don't need to meet with him. David is a rare gem of a TA. I'm lucky and grateful to have gotten him.

DJ O'lay is the best God damn TA at this school.

Absolutely would not be doing well in this course if it wasn't for David's guidance and clarification of what was said in lecture. Super helpful. Always able to meet or discuss any problems with assignments or material from class. Always very approachable and with a pleasant disposition, I could really tell he wanted everyone in the class to do well, and he was willing to help them. One of the best TA's I've had.

David is great! He is by far the most accessible TA I have had in my college experience. He is passionate about the material but is also passionate about teaching, and it comes across in his discussion sections. He presents material in a relevant, interesting way, and makes sure there is time for actually discussion and debate. His feedback is thorough and informative-- he is definitely on the students' side. A student would be very lucky to have David as a TA.

David was one of two really great TA's I have had in my four years at Barnard/Columbia. I actually enjoyed going to discussion section, felt like I was learning a lot and he made everything we were talking about in class more clear as well as relevant to the real world. He was great at facilitating discussion and made people want to participate. I tried harder than I would have in the class because I felt like he wanted me to do well and asked more of me.

Very quick with responding to emails and setting up meetings. Always available to answer any questions. Extremely helpful.

The only bad part of my section was that David summarized the papers too well. Because I knew that I was going to get everything I needed to know about the essays from section, I didn't have much motivation to read them.

BEST TA in COLUMBIA!!!

He was very helpful with answering questions.

David is the best TA I've ever had. I wish I could take every class with him. He gives great feedback, is always willing to meet, and works extremely hard to accommodate his students. He's absolutely amazing and I've really learned from him.

David is the best TA that I have encountered in my short one and a half year tenure at Barnard. He is not only focused on teaching and clarifying lecture and course materials, but is also invested in maximizing student potential and performance in the class. He is deeply interested in the material we are taught and even manages to incorporate relevant issues from in current American politics and popular culture to help broaden student understanding. Always one to go out of his way to help a student understand readings and concepts, his upbeat demeanor must also be lauded. I would consider taking a course if I was guaranteed to be in his TA section. David is simply an outstanding TA and potential professor.